

Congregational Intern Minister Reflection
Course Number: FE-4212
Units: 2.0
Starr King School for the Ministry, Fall 2021

Instructor:

Rev. Tera Klein

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Availability: Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 7 pm Pacific Time

Meeting Dates and Times – Online Course:

First and third Monday of each month, 10:30 AM – Noon Pacific Time

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9791373175>

Meeting ID: 979 137 3175

Course Description:

This course is a discussion format, shaped as a supportive learning circle that journeys with you during your congregational internship. We will discuss your spiritual formation, pastoral identity, and the challenges and joys of serving a congregation. In addition, we will have readings and guest speakers geared toward increasing your competencies in the basic tasks and responsibilities of ministry.

Relates to all SKSM Thresholds and all MFC Comps.

Learning Objectives:

During this course, students will

- Know more about yourself as a minister
- Understand more clearly ministerial authority and its appropriate use
- Grasp the importance of spiritual practice in ministerial life
- Begin to identify your strengths and growing edges with congregational ministry

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- Articulate how your theology and/or spirituality shapes your identity as a minister
- Offer ministerial reflection on the many aspects of your role
- Hold a better understanding of the boundaries between your personal and professional roles
- Share your spiritual practice with our group

Course Policies:

- Academic Conduct <https://www.sksm.edu/current-students/statement-academic-integrity-misconduct/>
- Plagiarism <https://www.sksm.edu/plagiarism/>
- Notice to Students About Your Privacy (FERPA) <https://www.sksm.edu/academics/policy-statements/ferpa-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act/>
- Disability Policy <https://www.sksm.edu/students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Course Assignments:

- Completion of UUA Service and Learning Agreement
- Lead at least one opening and closing for our class
- Readings or videos, available in Moodle
- Twice-monthly written reflections in the Moodle shell
- Presentation of your spiritual practice

Grading:

In keeping with Starr King's educational philosophy, this course is offered on a credit/no-credit basis (grade recorded on the GTU system as P/F). You will receive a narrative evaluation of your work which will assess your performance in the different areas and requirements outlined below. The assessment will include class attendance, class participation, Moodle postings, presentation of your spiritual practice, and demonstration of a thoughtful engagement with all elements of the class.

Class Attendance:

Attendance and participation in class discussions are essential components of this course, and all students are required to attend class and participate actively. Please **be on time to each Zoom session. As much as you are able, please set aside outside distractions and refrain from texting, e-mailing, and surfing the Internet for personal reasons during class. Please do not participate in class while you are commuting.** If you are waiting for an important call (e.g. as a chaplain, on a family emergency), please notify the instructor and send a private message if that call comes in during class time.

Class Participation:

It is absolutely essential to individual and group learning that you complete the required readings or video content and come prepared to actively engage in group discussions. Class discussions are a major aspect of this intensive. Each session will include an opening and closing

prayer/moment of intention, and on our first day you will be asked to sign up to lead one. Our class will engage the process of ministerial formation and leadership.

Moodle Postings and Spiritual Practice Presentation:

Twice a month, you will be asked to answer a reflection question in our Moodle classroom shell. These questions will pertain to some aspect of congregational ministry, and this is meant to supplement our relationship-building and self-understanding in between our online conversations.

As a minister, it is essential that you develop and maintain a spiritual practice. You will get to share your spiritual practice with our group during the semester.

Credits and workload: **this is a 2 credit, graduate-level class.**

Required Texts:

Your congregation and surrounding community are the sacred text of our class. Additional readings or videos for our class will be posted in Moodle. When possible, a link to a reading or video is posted in the course schedule below.

Course Schedule:

Monday, September 20 – Introductions and Role of the Minister

Introduction to the class and each other
Class Expectations
Learning Service Agreements

Bring something to our class that symbolizes who you are as a minister.

Come to class having read:

- Unitarian Universalist Association. *Widening the Circle of Concern. "Religious Professionals"*
- "It's the Minister: The Mystery and Magic of the Role" Rev. Ken Sawyer;
Full text: <https://www.uuma.org/mpage/BSE2007>.
Listen: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.uuma.org/resource/resmgr/bse/ken_sawyer.wav.

Monday, October 4 – Your People and Your Place: Ministry Context Matters

Come to class having read:

- "Engaging Your Context for Ministry," William B. Kincaid in *Engage: A Theological Field Education Toolkit*, edited by Mathew Floding.
- Unitarian Universalist Association. *Widening the Circle of Concern. "Congregations and Communities" and "Trends"*
- ["Your Community Is Your Congregation,"](#) by Joe Daniels in Leading Ideas.

Before class, "exegete" the neighborhood your congregation is in. If you are able and if your internship is in person, get out and walk around the neighborhood. If walking is not possible, then drive (or have someone drive you), slowly around the nearby streets. If you are not on site, can you use google or some other mapping system to see the neighborhood.

As you take in the smells, sights, sounds, feels of the area around your congregation, what is that neighborhood telling you about its history, its present, its future? Where are opportunities and where are challenges? Questions for you to consider will be in the Moodle shell.

Monday, October 18 – Entrepreneurial Ministry
Special Guest Rev. Ian Maher

Rev. Ian founded and led "Original Blessing," an UU community in Brooklyn, NY. Rev. Ian will share what he learned. Bring your questions!

Monday, November 1 – Music in Ministry
Special Guest DeReau Farrar

*UUA Learning Service Agreement Due

DeReau Farrar is the Director for Music, First Unitarian Church Portland, OR and serves as the President for UU Music Ministries.

Come to class having read:

["Changing the Words: An Historical Introduction to Unitarian Universalist Hymnody"](#) by Jason Shelton.

Familiarize yourself with:

- ["Insights & Instructions: Music"](#) UUA Website
- ["Notes from the Far Fringe"](#) Kimberly Debus

Monday, November 15 – Ethics and Accountability

Come to class having read:

- [UUMA Guidelines](#)

- “Fiduciary Duty and Sacred Trust” by Darryl W. Stephens (in Moodle)

Monday, December 6 – Holidays and Theologies

As we enter into the “Season of Light,” we’ll explore our theologies about the Winter Holidays and how our theologies are in dialogue with those of our congregations.